

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 4, 2015

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MoDOT Seeks Ideas for "Road to Tomorrow"

by Bob Brendel

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission would like to see the nation's oldest interstate highway reborn through innovation and technology.

Following its regular monthly meeting yesterday at Union Station, the MHTC announced its intention to make Interstate 70 from Kansas City to St. Louis available to private industry, entrepreneurs and innovators as a laboratory for construction of the next generation of highways.



"Missouri has always been a hub for transportation technology and innovation - and our highways should be no exception," said Gov. Jay Nixon. "As we continue to work to identify a solution to our transportation funding needs, I appreciate the Missouri Department of Transportation for taking a pro-active approach and embracing new technologies that will pave the way toward a brighter future."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower made revitalizing the nation's roads one of his highest priorities in the early 1950s. He envisioned a 40,000-mile network of interstate highways spanning the country. The system of high-speed, access-controlled freeways would facilitate national defense, increase safety and provide for the efficient movement of goods and people.

"It's only appropriate that the re-birth of the nation's interstate system begin at its birthplace," MHTC Chairman Stephen R. Miller said. "Missouri has always been at the heart of highway transportation - not only because the state's geographic location puts it at the nation's core, but also because of the role it's played in the realization of Eisenhower's dream."

When President Eisenhower signed the legislation that authorized the interstate highway system in 1956, Missouri soon after became the first state to award an interstate construction contract for a section of Interstate 44 in Laclede County, and several months later became the first state to begin construction of an interstate when work began on I-70 in St. Charles.

Also, the man most credited with overseeing the realization of Eisenhower's dream was Rex Whitton who began his career with the Missouri Highway Department in 1920 as a surveyor. He rose to chief engineer in 1951, served as president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in the fateful year of 1956 and then led the interstate effort during its critical years as administrator of the Federal Highway Administration from 1961 through 1966.

"We're open to any and all ideas," Miller said. "Just as MoDOT's design-build projects over the last decade have produced insights and innovations not previously imagined, we are confident that offering free reign to human creativity and a designated site for implementation will generate the very best in American ingenuity." He added that Americans are just now getting a glimpse of the new technologies that could serve as the basis for future highways: GPS systems, autonomous vehicles, alternative fuels, new construction materials, etc.

MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger has appointed a team of MoDOT experts to solicit and evaluate ideas from the private sector. Those ideas need to not only focus on innovations in traffic engineering, design and construction, but also innovative ways of funding transportation infrastructure. He said the program will be called "Road to Tomorrow." More information may be found at www.modot.org/road2tomorrow.



Click above to watch a video by the USDOT entitled **Connected Vehicles: The Future of Transportation**. The video can also be found on the Road for Tomorrow website www.modot.org/road2tomorrow.

"Even as we seek to boldly go where we have not gone before," Miller said, "we must stay firmly rooted in the realities of the moment - and that is that we have insufficient funding to preserve our current system. 'Road to Tomorrow' may be years or decades away. In the meantime, a modest increase in fuel taxes is the most viable way to protect our current transportation assets."

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/road2tomorrow>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Road2Tomorrow>
 WordPress (Blog) - <https://road2tomorrow.wordpress.com/>
 Photos of the press conference - Photos

Commission Summary

by Bob Brendel

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission heard five public presentations at its meeting Wednesday in Kansas City that reinforced the importance of an integrated transportation system.

Terry Bassham, chief executive officer of Kansas City Power & Light and a board member of the Kansas City Civic Council; Michael Collins, president and CEO of the Kansas City Port Authority; David Warm, executive director of the Mid-America Regional Council; Robbie Makinen, chairman of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) board of commissioners; John Sweeney, Jackson County economic development director; and Sly James, mayor of Kansas City, each addressed the Commission on a wide range of area transportation needs, goals and visions for the future.

- Bassham announced plans for a Transportation Futures Symposium later this year, seeking visionary speakers “who will shake up the thought process.”
- Collins described a new rail spur that will be constructed through portKC “to make the port fully functional.” He said that the U.S. uses just two percent of its waterways for freight distribution compared to 63 percent in Europe and 41 percent in Asia.
- Warm discussed the region’s long-range plan, and commissioners noted how it dovetails with MoDOT’s: there are far more needs than there is revenue available for them over the next 25 years. Warm said the plan focuses on three things: the transportation system we have today; providing more transportation choices; and the transportation connection to land-use planning.
- Makinen described the revitalization of KCATA and its strengthened relationships with municipalities in the Kansas City region.
- Sweeney explained the tremendous opportunity Jackson County has with the old Rock Island railroad corridor that runs 17 miles through the county. The county is submitting a TIGER grant application to help acquire and develop the corridor for bike/ped use and light rail.
- Mayor James gave a construction update on the Kansas City streetcar that is slated to begin operations in 2016. He noted the project is on time and on budget and that it has spurred interest in downtown development along the two-mile route.



Kansas City Mayor Sly James addresses the Commission with a construction update on the Kansas City streetcar.

OTHER ITEMS

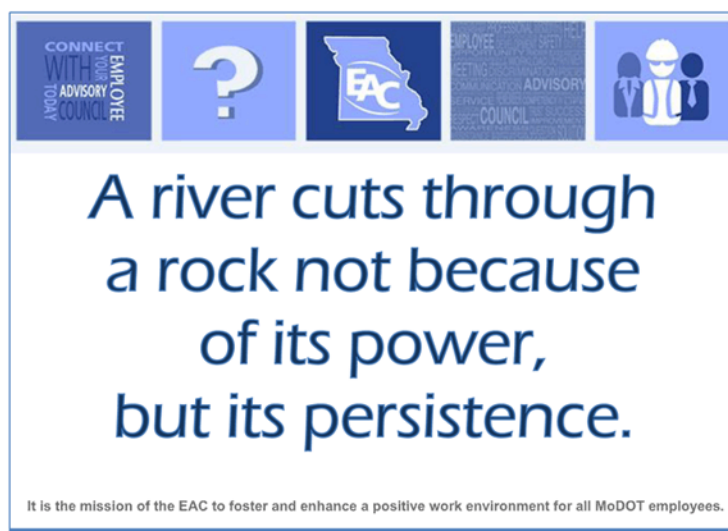
Legislative Committee – Vice Chairman Joe Carmichael said that although the Commission is disappointed by the result of the 2015 legislative session, it was a positive that the Senate devoted 8-1/2 hours to the transportation funding issue and that “it has improved our position for the next legislative session. We will live to fight again another day.”

Director’s Report – Interim Director Roberta Broeker congratulated the St. Louis District for the “Blue Pencil Award” it has received from the National Association of Government Communicators for the grand-opening ceremonies it coordinated last year upon completion of the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge. She also shared a safety story about last week’s collision between a motorist and a MoDOT striping train working on U.S. Route 50 west of Jefferson City. Thankfully, no one was injured, but she said it’s so important for drivers to pay attention; the driver in this instance related she “just looked down for a second.”

Consideration of Bids for Transportation Improvements – State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter reported to the Commission the results of the May 15 bid opening. MoDOT received 93 bids on 34 calls, including two projects with local funding. The Commission awarded all to the low bidder, except for four that were rejected due to excessive bids. One call received no bids. He also said for Fiscal Year 2015, the Commission awarded \$727 million worth of work at 2.2 percent below budget. Next year, though, awards will be \$122 million lower which is the equivalent of 200 bridge replacement projects.

MoDOT Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – The Commission approved a \$2.1 billion budget for MoDOT following a presentation by Financial Services Director Brenda Morris. She said the budget is down \$127 million from this year’s budget and includes \$100 million less in contractor payments.

Columbia I-70 Bridges Design-Build Project – Following a presentation by Central District Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner, the Commission selected the Emery Sapp & Sons/Parsons Transportation Group team to replace six mainline bridges on Interstate 70 in Columbia. All were constructed in 1957 and have deteriorated to the point that, though safe, they are a persistent maintenance headache for the district. The \$18 million project will begin later this summer and is to be completed by August 31, 2016.



MoDOT *U* Tracks Employee Training Online

by Linda Wilson-Horn



MoDOT's Learning Management System (LMS), which tracks employee training, is being improved with a new system called MoDOT *U*.

Later this month, you will receive information with a link to the new system along with instructions on how to use MoDOT *U* to view your training transcripts and sign up for classes.

MoDOT *U* will be more user-friendly and online training classes will also be new, with updated content and shorter, more interactive class options.

The new system will help supervisors invest in and encourage employee development

through the tracking of training and allowing supervisors to easily view and pull reports on employees' training records. Human Resources staff and system administrators have been trained in the past couple of months and will be conducting training for supervisors as needed in the coming weeks.

Watch for more information on MoDOT *U* later this month.

New Innovations Challenge SharePoint Page

by Machele Watkins

I am excited to announce a new SharePoint page for the Innovations Challenge program. The page contains everything you need to submit your innovation including entry forms, a program overview and some frequently asked questions. Need to get your creative juices flowing? Watch one of the videos of previous showcase competitions to see how other employees put their ideas to work. Looking for a specific innovation? You can view more than 100 innovations alphabetically, by year or by category. The tool and equipment innovations are even sorted by maintenance functions to speed up your search.

You can find the new page by selecting "Innovations Challenge" on the tool bar on the left side of the MoDOT SharePoint homepage, or by going to the Transportation Planning Division page and clicking on the Innovations Challenge button.

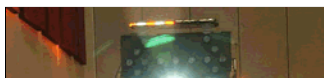
If you would like to add the page to your browser's favorites, here's the address - [Innovations Challenge](#).

I hope you'll take time to visit the new page and be an active part of putting innovation to work at MoDOT!



Innovations Challenge

Speaking of Innovations!



Kudos to St. Louis District Signing and Striping Supervisor John Russell and his team for their truck-mounted attenuator (TMA) warning light system.



This MoDOT 2014 state innovations challenge grand prize winner has now been adopted for use by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Currently ODOT has installed the lights on six TMAs in the Columbus, Ohio region.

The ODOT employees like the warning light system, and they feel they are helping reduce crashes.

MoDOT Warns Motorists to Watch Out for Summer Work Zones

Nine Work Zones on I-70 Scheduled to Repair Pavements and Bridges

by Linda Wilsoln-Horn

To help ensure summer travels are as carefree as possible, MoDOT has developed a list of significant work zones to be on the lookout for this summer. Although the state construction budget is less than half of what it was five years ago, drivers will still encounter nine separate work zones on Interstate 70 for resurfacing and bridge repairs across the state. Lane restrictions are also expected on several other interstates including I-29, I-44, I-270 and I-55. The majority of the construction work is for pavement and bridge repairs.



Motorists should pay attention to all signing, follow the posted speed limits and merge every other car where lanes are closed. Always wear safety belts and be alert for slowed traffic, narrowed lanes or a reduced number of lanes. Many of these work zones may cause congestion and traffic delays, especially during peak travel times.

"Driver inattention was the second highest cause of work zone crashes in 2014. Driving too closely was number one," said Roberta Broeker, MoDOT's interim director. "The average text takes five seconds to read. Traveling at 55 mph, you will travel more than the length of a football field-blindfolded. If you aren't paying attention to the road, you will come up on a closed lane very quickly."

The list provides information on how the major interstate work zones will affect travel and for how long. Click here to view the list - Summer Work Zones.



What's Happening



Employee Advisory Council Membership Drive

The EAC has begun taking applications for the next term of members. Here are the qualifications for membership:

The EAC will be comprised of three salaried MoDOT employees from each district and Central Office, including up to three members chosen by the department director. These employees must have successfully completed their probationary period, must meet their performance expectations and must not have any serious disciplinary action (e.g., written warning or greater) within the past year or while serving on the EAC.



If you would like to apply, please use the following link - [EAC Membership Application](#), or select the Get Involved button on the [EAC SharePoint](#) site.

The EAC looks forward to working with all employees to continue to make MoDOT a great place to work.



June Deferred Compensation Update

Employee Recognition Day is only a week away. Have you been taking part in the Retirement IQ Scavenger Hunt? The June DC Update catches up with some familiar faces who explain how you can get involved in the fun, and put the deferred compensation plan to work for you this summer. Click here to watch this month's video - [June DC Update](#).



Capital Fellowship Program

The University of Missouri's Capital Fellowship Program is designed to provide opportunities for high-potential, mid-career state employees to attend the Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program. The fellowship covers in-state tuition for up to 11 required MPA courses. Read more about this program and how to apply - [Capital Fellowship](#).

June Service Anniversaries

40 Years

Hubert Ray Maddox - CD

30 Years

Billie Dean Tucker - KC
Larry K. Koenig - CD
Stephen Bruce Jeffery - CD
Larry Dean Johnson - SL
Lise G. Susnic - SL
Lawrence R. Brooks - SL
Burt Pitchford - SW
Timothy Ray Cox - SE
Dale W. Glenn - CO
David D. Ahlvers - CO

25 Years

Marion Lee Boyles - NW
Todd N. King - NW
James D. Luther - KC
Percy Lamont Houston - KC
Kevin Lowell Eggemeyer - CD
Charles Bradley Brown - SW
Karen Lynn Johnson - SW
Ronald D. King - SE
Stacy L. McMillan - CO

20 Years

Roger K. Fitzpatrick - NW
Ronald Keith Snider - NW
Stanley D. Chesnut - NW
Daniel S. Brumagin - NE
Allan J. Ludiker - KC
Robin Deanna McKee - CD
Bobby Rae Slater - CD
Leon Johnson - SL
Donald D. Demshar - SW
William B. Thomas - SW
Nicholas J. Capra - SW
Kendall L. Freeman - SE
Pamela S. Racer - SE
Tammy M. Hefner - SE
Pamela Sue Lueckenotto - CO
Eric John Curtit - CO

15 Years

Darby Dean Logan - NW
Eugene W. Oser - NW
Lee Bearce - NW
Warren L. Ratliff - NE
Gerri Lee Smith - NE
Ivy D. Yeams - NE
Brandon D. Daniel - KC
Robin L. Green - KC
Joseph Martin Bax - CD
Mike Shirley - CD
Donald K. Bouse - CD
Eric Joseph Kaiser - CD
Douglas Frank Branson - CD
Christopher B. Licklider - CD
Jeremy J. Overkamp - SL
Sally Lin Cox - SL
Michael J. Shanks - SL
Aaron Matthew Rieder - SW
Lyle E. Foley - SW
F. Leann Blankenship - SW
Karen Rosellen Lane - SW
Matthew C. Berry - SW
Mark Aaron Aldridge - SW
Chris W. Barnfield - SE
Dennis Wayne Brown - SE
Nathan Allen Moss - SE
Nathan B. Orf - SE
Kelly Lorene Didriksen - CO
Sarah Kathleen Kleinschmit - CO
Joanie Marie Prenger - CO
James Kevin Wunderlich - CO
Dee Anne Pardue - CO
James A. Cox - CO
Jeffery B. Padgett - CO

10 Years

Daniel Wade Nelson - NE
Michael L. Teter - NE
Dwayne L. Buzzard - NE
Shannon E. Partin - NE
Brandon Lee Cracraft - KC
Steven W. Allerson - KC
Zachary Seth Walker - KC
Randall L. Forde - KC
Robert P. Farley - CD
Jacob A. Keeney - CD
Brad Thomas Pefferman - CD
Margaret Ann Bruns - SL
Nicholas M. Correnti - SL
Waldo W. Thompson - SL
Kenneth Francis Wich - SL
Kristina Lynn Jordan - SL
Mike Allen Swearingin - SW
Brandon Douglas Campbell - SW
Cynthia Ann Dunnaway - SW
Layton E. Brower - SW
Michelle Lyn Kelley - SW
David L. Peyton - SE
Nathan Edward Hull - SE
Christopher M. Shanks - CO
Jason Daniel Saey - CO

5 Years

Michele L. Compton - KC
Monnie T. Jones - SE

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Central
Office

Help Drive Out Hunger MoDOT's Second Annual Food Drive Underway

by Beckie Brietzke

Thousands of individuals throughout our great state struggle to feed themselves and their families. In fact, one in six Missourians do not know where their next meal will be coming from. It is unfortunate to know that a statistic like this is real. Over one million Missourians face this reality every day. It is our turn to stand up and help drive out hunger. During the month of June, MoDOT will be partnering with local food banks to donate supplies.

Central Office and Central District will be partnering with The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. This food bank provides assistance to soup kitchens, emergency food pantries, shelters for the abused and homeless, low-income children and senior citizens. They were founded in 1981 by the Social Work Department at the University of Missouri who worked in collaboration with Central Missouri Counties Human Development corporations. Their efforts over the years have provided un-paralleled support in all the counties and communities here in central Missouri. Let us help them keep up their efforts and do our part to drive out hunger!



For this information and more, please visit the food bank website - <http://sharefoodbringhope.org/aboutus>.

Collection boxes are located in the break rooms at all Central Office buildings and at the Central District office through the end of June.

The following table represents the demographics for the Central Office and Central District areas:

Central District/ Office	Population	Percent of Food insecurity	Population of food insecure individuals
Boone	165,776	17.2	28,470
Callaway	44,276	14.4	6,390
Camden	43,822	15.6	6,820
Cole	76,288	15.4	11,760
Cooper	17,574	16.2	2,840
Crawford	24,711	16.6	4,100
Dent	15,649	16.5	2,580
Gasconade	15,083	14.7	2,220
Howard	10,184	15.8	1,600
Laclede	35,535	17.6	6,250
Maries	9,102	14.6	1,330
Miller	24,863	16.8	4,180
Moniteau	15,657	14.1	2,200
Morgan	20,392	16.9	3,440
Osage	13,842	12.3	1,700
Phelps	44,969	16.8	7,570
Pulaski	52,795	17.2	9,050

Great Outdoors and Outdoor Safety



Nature provides a breath of fresh air and an opportunity to get away from the everyday hustle. June is Great Outdoors Month. Make plans to get outside, but remember to be prepared and stay safe.

The U.S. Forest Service recommends the following tips to stay safe outdoors:

- **Don't travel alone.** Bring a friend and let others know your plans and when you plan to return.
- **Know your limits.** Make sure your body is in good physical condition and can handle the demands of your time in nature.
- **Watch your step.** Have the proper shoes and stay on marked paths.
- **Dress for the weather and conditions.** Wearing the right clothing will make for a more enjoyable and comfortable trip.
- **Keep your equipment in good shape.** Check your equipment and supplies before you get outdoors.
- **Check the weather.** Know what the weather conditions will be and if there is inclement weather possible.
- **Keep a first aid kit.** Learn to identify and treat common injuries and illnesses that occur in nature (poison ivy, twisted ankles, insect stings, cuts and scratches, heat illnesses).
- **Stop before it gets dark.** If you plan to camp, make sure your tent and camp are set up before it gets dark.
- **Keep the alcohol at home.** Alcohol can ruin a great experience outdoors.
- **Don't drink the water.** It may be tempting to drink from a stream, but there may be waterborne parasites or microorganisms. Bring your own water, know where clean water is located and/or pack water purification supplies.

Read more about keeping hydrated and how to prevent heat exhaustion and heat stroke – June Wellness Newsletter.

Central Office Happenings

State Employee Recognition Week

Missouri's annual State Employee Recognition Week, June 8-12, 2015, will honor the dedication and commitment of state employees. The State Employee Appreciation Day, held on the Capitol south lawn from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, will feature numerous state offices and local businesses with displays and information available to the public highlighting their accomplishments and services. Also, please check out the special offers available for state employees at this link: <http://serd.mo.gov/index.htm>.



STATE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION WEEK

June 8-12, 2015, will honor the dedication and commitment of state employees.

Monday
MEE Zone Monday – Human Resources MEE Zone sponsored activity in Divisions/Districts.

Tuesday
Tempting Treats Day – Employees can bring in their favorite treats to share with coworkers.

Wednesday
Wellness Wednesday – Get out and get moving during at least one break today with a quick walk outside. Bring in a healthy snack to share with coworkers!

Thursday Missouri State Employee Appreciation Day at the Capitol
Throwback Thursday (#TBT)– Replicate “Throwback Thursday” Facebook posts by sporting fashions from the 1980s. Work groups can start the day with a quick “best dressed” contest with photos of the winners featured in Connections.

Friday
Who Are You Rootin’ For? – In honor of the 30th anniversary of the 1985 I-70 World Series between the KC Royals and STL Cardinals, show your support for your favorite team. Are you RED or BLUE? With supervisor permission and if employees have no meetings with outside partners, jeans may be worn.



or 573-526-7860.

First Aid/CPR/AED Classes

June 12 - 8: a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and
 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 601 West Main Street - Training Room B.

Space is limited. Check with your supervisor and sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#) (LMS Course Code 24597, titled First Aid/CPR – Infant & CPR/AED – Adult & Child.)

Questions? Contact Allison Heintz – allison.heintz@modot.mo.gov



MEE Zone Event Social Security Seminar

June 16 - CO Training Room B, 601 W. Main St (HR Annex)
 June 18 - CO Training Room B, 601 W Main St (HR Annex)
 Each seminar will take place from 2 to 3 p.m.

The Love Chromosome

June 8 – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 Central Office Conference Room 100, 105 W Capitol

Derrick and Julie are a brother and sister duo who travel the world doing motivational speaking. Their story is phenomenal. Julie and Derrick have both learned to make obstacles opportunities. They both love their life, and their message is one of hope, joy, inspiration and laughter.

Sign up for these Mee Zone events through the [LMS Student Center](#) or contact Amanda Woody (573) 526-5617.



Missouri State Employees Blood Drive



June 22 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Governor's Office Building - Conference Room 450
200 Madison St., Jefferson City

Your blood donation can make a significant impact in someone's life. Blood is needed for many different reasons. Your donation could be used for the little girl with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer or a friend involved in a car accident.

How You Can Sign Up To Donate

To make an appointment please visit redcrossblood.org – Sponsor Keyword: MoState.

If you can't make it to this Red Cross Blood Drive, please call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit the website and search for a drive near you.

Eligibility Questions

For eligibility questions call the Red Cross at (866) 236-3276 or visit the website.

Prepare Yourself for Your Donation

By following a few recommendations before, during and after your blood donation can help you make your donation experience as safe, successful and pleasant as possible - Recommendations.

Pizza available after donation.

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Continuing Education



Central District Safety and Health Manager Chris Engelbrecht led SHRP 2 Traffic Incident Management Responder Training for employees in Maintenance Superintendent Todd Gibson's area.



Employees from Albany, Bethany, Gallatin, Grant City and King City maintenance buildings attended the SHRP 2 Traffic Incident Management Responder Training on June 2. The training will be offered to all maintenance employees throughout the district.



Consent Decree Training has been held at the District Office for construction and materials staff. A future training session will be offered for contractors.



Northwest District design, maintenance and traffic employees were joined by employees from other districts at the June 3 training session, led by Stormwater Compliance Coordinator Eric Kopinski.

Safety Checks

The Northwest Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety has been busy checking to make sure residents in this part of the state are as safe as possible through child passenger safety seat checks and seat belt checks at local high schools.

As part of a farm-themed family event in Savannah, Mo., several child seats were checked for proper installation by certified technicians. A seat belt check was held at two St. Joseph high schools during the last week of school. Those that were properly belted in received a ticket to a St. Joseph Mustangs baseball game!



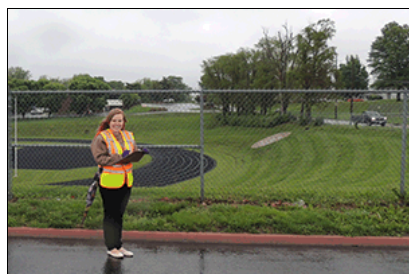
Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen ensures this infant's car seat is properly fitted to their tiny body. Certified technicians, like Allen, also check the seats in the vehicle to make sure they are properly installed.



A different type of kid showed up, but the technicians were not certified to check his child safety seat! Also at the event were horses, sheep and farm dogs.



St. Joseph police officer Mike George is also a certified technician. Here he consults with a parent about the proper car seat or booster seat for their young passenger.



Communications Intern Abbey McKern braved the rain and cold to assist with the seat belt check held at Bishop LeBlond High School. LeBlond and Benton High School were rewarded for their Battle of the Belt participation with a surprise seat belt check during the last week of school. Those who were belted in received a ticket to a St. Joseph Mustangs baseball game, good for any of the games this summer.

Northwest District Bike To Work Day

For several years in a row, the Northwest District has participated in Bike To Work Day, sponsored by the St. Joseph Metropolitan Planning Organization. Senior Highway Designers Jack Smith and Joyce Reynolds are very active in the St. Joseph Bike Club and have spearheaded the district's efforts in this annual event. This year, despite the rain and chill, nine district employees participated! Eight of the employees work at the district office complex, while one works out of the Chillicothe office. Can you spot him in the photo below?



Since it was rainy and chilly, not everyone was able to ride their bikes to work. They 'borrowed' some of the bikes that are on hand to give to kids in need.



Bagels were brought in by the MPO to the District Office as a reward for having so many employees sign up to participate. The Bike to Work folks generously shared their bounty with everyone!

For more info

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816.387.2495
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Comments & Suggestions

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Team Has Their Eye on the TIGER

In April 2015, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced \$500 million will be made available for transportation projects across the nation under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. A minimum of \$100 million is dedicated to rural areas.

A team of individuals got together and worked to submit an application for the Northeast District for one of these TIGER grants to help with the funding of a new Mississippi River Bridge on U.S. Route 54 at Louisiana, Mo. The new bridge is estimated to cost \$63.2 million, and is not funded at this time.

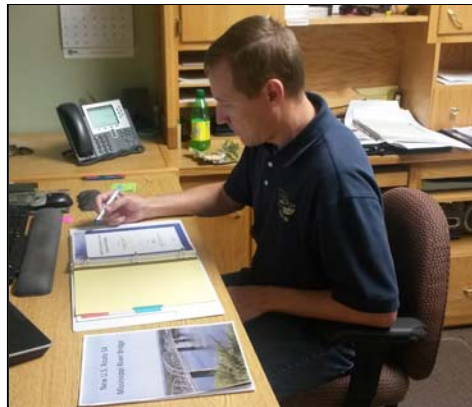
Those involved with the process were: Brian Haeffner, area engineer, Keith Killen, project manager, Jay Wunderlich, governmental relations director, Bob Brendel, special projects coordinator, Marisa Ellison, communications manager, Machel Watkins, transportation planning director, Dennis Heckman, state bridge engineer, Jay Moore, senior resource management analyst; and Eva Voss, senior transportation planner.

The application was submitted requesting \$10 million.

"This is a joint application between the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Missouri Department of Transportation, as the project cost would be divided equally among the two states," says Keith Killen, project manager. "It is an extremely competitive process," he added.

They anticipate approximately 800 applications to be submitted for this seventh round of grants, and only 6 percent of applications were awarded in the first six rounds.

If awarded a grant, the project will need to be ready for letting by September 2017.



Keith Killen, project manager, is pictured working on the TIGER grant application that was submitted.

New Summer Faces

Over the summer, there will be new faces around the district. The Northeast District has six interns joining us for the next few months. We wanted to take a moment and feature these individuals over the next few weeks. Our first two are Josiah Huff and Lairyn McGregor.



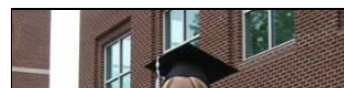
Josiah Huff

Josiah is an intern in the Information Systems Department. He is originally from Dayton, Wyoming. He is a senior at Hannibal LaGrange University studying Computer Information Systems and Business Administration. He hopes his time at MoDOT will help him gain a better understanding of what it is like to work with people in IS and gain a competitive edge for after college.

In his free time he enjoys being outdoors, hanging out with his three brothers, rock climbing and running track. He currently runs track for HLGU.

Lairyn McGregor

Lairyn is an intern in the Communications Department. She is originally from Hannibal, Mo. She is a recent graduate of Truman State University



with a BA in Communications with an emphasis in public relations. She hopes her time at MoDOT will enhance her experience in the communications field, and help her establish solid relationships and connections.

She was a tour guide at Mark Twain and Cameron Caves for six years, and in her free time she enjoys visiting other caves around the state. She is the daughter of Sherri McGregor, the financial services manager in the Kansas City District.



Around the District...



Canton schools held a Safety Night for area children. Pictured are Brittany Deters and Raymond Smith, family of Robert Deters, the supervisor at Canton maintenance, enjoying the exhibits at Safety Night. Canton took a truck for the kids to enjoy, and Buckles was also there to greet the children.



The Northeast District received four new Mack trucks. Inspections were underway at the district office to ensure the trucks were ready to put into service.



The bridge over Cuivre River on Route H in Lincoln County had a hole in the deck. A steel plate was placed over the hole until a more permanent repair can be done within the next few weeks.

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Kansas City Hosts Commission Meeting

This week the Kansas City District played host to the monthly Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting at Union Station. The commission heard presentations from Kansas City Power and Light, Port of Kansas City, Mid-America Regional Council, Jackson County and the mayor of Kansas City, Sly James.

At this meeting, the commission also unveiled the Road to Tomorrow initiative that will offer I-70 as a "laboratory" for the next generation of highway and technological innovation. [Click here for more information the Road to Tomorrow.](#)



Maine DOT Tours Kansas City's Diverging Diamond Interchanges

On the heels of a recent trip from the the Delaware DOT, representatives from the Maine Department of Transportation spent some time in Kansas City touring the successful diverging diamond interchanges, working through technical specifications for the project and learning about the public involvement process.



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Concrete Cloth Innovation is Effective Alternative to Culvert Pipe Replacement

While transportation funding is shrinking, the Missouri Department of Transportation is still aggressively searching for innovative ways to maintain roads and bridges with the limited budget it is allocated.

Using concrete cloth to reinforce and extend the life of culverts scheduled for replacement is one of many innovative solutions MoDOT is testing to help save these valuable transportation dollars.

“We are always trying to make a diligent effort to come up with innovative cost-effective ways to maintain our transportation system,” said MoDOT Central District Assistant Maintenance Engineer Jason Shafer, “Concrete cloth is just a great example of an economical innovation we can use to save transportation dollars, without sacrificing quality or safety.”

The cost difference between the two culvert pipe maintenance methods is significant. The average cost of the materials required to reinforce a 30-foot pipe with concrete cloth costs approximately \$3,100, while a brand new culvert pipe is about \$10,500.

Installation of the concrete cloth involves applying it in sections inside of the culvert pipe and then soaking the surface. Once the concrete is cured, the product strengthens the integrity of the pipe and extends the life of the culvert for approximately 25 years, according to the Miliken concrete cloth website.

The concrete cloth method also eliminates bumps left in the road from the removal and replacement of the roadway. In addition, road or lane closures are not required, because all the work involved can be completed off the surface of the highway.

Central District road crews have installed the concrete cloth inside a culvert pipe on Route 32 near Licking. This was the first time the product was used on a culvert pipe in Missouri. MoDOT has plans to install concrete cloth on another culvert pipe on Route AA in Maries County on June 9, weather permitting.

“So far, we’re really pleased with the performance of the product,” said Shafer, “and if all continues to go well, we hope to implement this method for culvert pipes, when appropriate, in the future.”



Around the District



MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker (left) makes pancakes while cooking breakfast for the maintenance workers (right) at the Fulton facility. The breakfast was a show of appreciation for our hard-working maintenance workers. District Engineer David Silvester also participated in the Fulton breakfast. He has been traveling with Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner to maintenance facilities across the district cooking breakfast for each shed as a token of thanks.



Welcome the 2015 class of interns to the Central District! This year's group includes:
 Construction Intern Jason Dunn, Bridge Inspection Intern Anthony Cano, Construction Intern Chase Barbarick, Equipment Technician Intern Ian Brauner, Survey Intern Cody Soots, Survey Intern Ashley Colter, Design Intern Haley Dickneite, Traffic Intern Taylor Hudson, Construction Intern Jacob Reeter, Construction Intern Sean McNulty, Safety Intern Chase Brackman, Information Systems Intern George Welling, Construction Intern Connor Beck, Construction Intern Robert Riddle and Construction Intern Taylor Shelton.



District Engineer David Silvester (top left) and MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker (to the right of Silvester) meet with the Jefferson City Project Office to discuss concerns and policies during a recent information exchange meeting.

MoDOT Communications Director Fay Fleming (right) participates in a roleplaying exercise with Central District Customer Service Representative Janis Gieck during the recent state customer service representative meeting at the District Office.

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St. Louis District

St. Louis District Announces New Southwest County Area Engineer



Karen Yeomans was recently selected as area engineer for Southwest St. Louis County.

Yeomans is a 1994 graduate of the University of Missouri –Rolla with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. She is a professional engineer in the state of Missouri and has been with the department for more than 20 years.

Most recently, she held the position of district design engineer in St. Louis and led her team in finding innovations and efficiencies in the design process to deliver the STIP. She served as a liaison between design and other departments, districts and outside agencies.

“Throughout her career, Karen has demonstrated her ability to gain team collaboration, communicate effectively, manage complex issues, and compassionately develop team members. I am excited about the opportunities this appointment will give Karen and the Southwest County area team. She has outstanding ideas and I look forward to seeing her implement them,” said Tom Blair, assistant district engineer.

Yeomans began her new role as area engineer on June 1.

Barrel Bob Embraces Veterans Group

by Shaunda White



Barrel Bob is among hundreds of supporters for the Run for the Wall ride in Wentzville on May 18.

Barrel Bob, along with some MoDOT employees, showed their support for more than 500 bikers riding across country in honor of veterans. The MoDOT team met and greeted the bikers at a scheduled stop in Wentzville on May 18 as part of the Run for the Wall ride.

The 10-day cross-country motorcycle journey is dedicated to remembering and honoring those who have served in wartime and those who are missing in action from all U.S. wars.

The MoDOT crew presented them with motorcycle safety brochures as well as “Watch for Motorcycles” key chains and bumper stickers as a token of support for their cause.

MoDOT employees helped prepare Barrel Bob for his appearance just hours before the bikers scheduled stop in Wentzville. He was dressed in a motorcycle helmet and vest to fit the occasion.

Fred Chew, a maintenance crew leader and motorcyclist, was among the MoDOT employees in Wentzville. Chew previously participated in the Run for the Wall ride with his son in 2000.

“I know firsthand how much the bikers appreciate pulling up to a scheduled stop and being embraced by caring people that support them and care for their safety. I think this is a great way to show them that we do both,” said Chew.

This year marks the 27th annual Run for the Wall event. The ride began on May 13 in California and ended in Washington, DC on Memorial Day.

For more information on the 2015 Run for the Wall ride, please visit this link: <http://rftw.org/>.



Barrel Bob greets and directs the bikers towards the MoDOT table for safety information and give-a-ways.

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southwest District at Work



JUST ONE MORE PULL... - Anderson Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Claycomb (left) and Anderson Maintenance Crew Leader Cody Sanny remove a damaged delineator along an on-ramp on Interstate 49 in Newton County near Neosho. (Photo/David Mitchell)



CAN WE GO THIS WAY? - Galena Senior Maintenance Worker Jeff Conway talks to motorists about how to avoid a fog seal operation on Missouri Route W near Monett in Lawrence County. (Photo/David Mitchell)



SAFETY FIRST - Certified Appraiser Mary Slaughter (left), Emily Weeks (center) and Pat Cantrell of Alliance Sport Marketing, set up a booth to spread the Arrive Alive message before a recent race at Ozark Raceway Park in Rogersville.

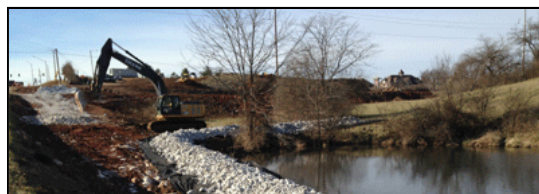


DOWN IT COMES! - Work is underway to replace the Missouri Route N/T bridge over Interstate 44 in Greene County west of Springfield. Click on the image above to see some video of the demolition of the old bridge.

District Construction Inspectors Recognized for Clean Environmental Inspection

by David Mitchell

At a time when MoDOT is learning about how to comply with a recent agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency settling alleged violations of the federal Clean Water Act, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has given its stamp of approval to erosion control measures being used on a high-profile project in Springfield.



The \$12.5 million Battlefield/U.S. Route 65 diverging diamond project features a new bridge and diverging diamond interchange over Route 65 in eastern Springfield. The work zone is near some residential neighborhoods and commercial properties.



Example of the erosion control measures used at the Diverging Diamond Interchange under construction at Battlefield Road & U.S. Route 65 in eastern Springfield.

In a letter dated March 27, 2015, DNR declared the project in compliance with the Missouri Clean Water Law, Clean Water Commission Regulations and the Missouri State Operating Permit for the project. The department found “no unsatisfactory features” during its inspection March 17.

Springfield Resident Engineer Brad Gripka credits the positive report to starting the project off right and paying attention to potential problem areas.

“We’re just doing our job,” said Gripka. “We’re staying on top of erosion control and we’re addressing property owners’ concerns.”

“We’re taking extra precautions with environmental issues we’ve identified,” he said, “like nearby ponds and creeks.”

The project also is being used to test the EPA’s consent decree website and to train MoDOT inspectors how to be in compliance with the federal court’s order, which is expected to take effect this month.

Because of the clean DNR report, Senior Construction Inspector Craig Huckaby, Intermediate Construction Inspector Jacob Capeder and Gripka will be recognized by the Southwest District Management Team with a Noteworthy Award at its June meeting.

District Management Team Learns About Community

by Jennifer Williams

The SW District Management Team will regularly meet offsite in order to learn more about their community. For their May meeting, the team visited the Darr Agricultural Center at Missouri State University, located on 90-acres near the intersection of Kansas Expressway (Missouri Route 13) and Sunshine Street (Missouri Route D) in southwest Springfield. The Darr Center serves as a laboratory and field experience classroom for the study of livestock management, equine studies, horticulture, agronomy, animal science, and wildlife conservation and management.

During the tour of the facility, the Management Team was able to discuss the importance of the location, transportation access for the business side (cattle sales, food and wine production, and events), ongoing research into grapes and walnuts, as well as the Center’s environmental impacts and preventative measures for compliance with DNR and the EPA due to their proximity to urban water sources.



Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz (center in dark blue) and other members of the District Management Team hear about the operations at Missouri State University’s Darr Agricultural Center in Springfield.

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Small School, Big Talent

East Carter County Students Win Aviation Art Contest

It may be considered a small school, but East Carter County School in Ellsinore, Mo., certainly isn't short on talent.

Recently, five East Carter students were named winners of state awards in the International Aviation Art Contest. The contest challenges students to illustrate the importance of aviation through art and encourages them to become more familiar with aeronautics, engineering and science.

This year's theme was the World Air Games.

The East Carter winners included: Hannah Andrews (first place), Shay Robinson (second place) and Tessa Schaffer (fourth place) in the Senior Category, as well as Hannah Barton (second place) and Mea Phillips (third place) in the Intermediate Category.

Area Engineer David Wyman attended an assembly at the school on May 29 to present the students with their awards.



Area Engineer David Wyman stands with East Carter winners (l to r) Tessa Schaffer, Hannah Barton, Mea Phillips and Shay Robinson following the assembly.

The U.S. portion of the contest is sanctioned by the National Aeronautic Association (NAA), managed by the NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education and sponsored by Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University – Prescott, Ken Cook Co., the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education with additional support from NASAO members. MoDOT helps support the contest.

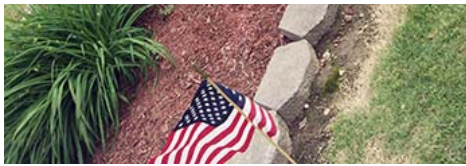
Children between the ages of 6 and 17 may participate. The artwork from around the state is submitted to MoDOT near the end of January. This year's artwork was displayed at the Jefferson City Flying Service for approximately two weeks, and then posted at MoDOT's Central Office for approximately two weeks. Votes were cast in three different categories: junior, intermediate and senior.

For more information, visit the national sponsor's site at www.nasao.org/test/center/internationalaviationartcontest.aspx.

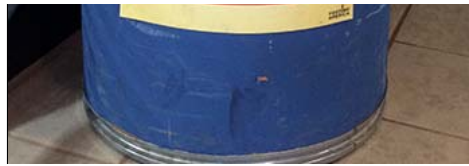
Thank You for Your Service

Donations Accepted





The Southeast District's Chapter of the Transportation Employees Association of Missouri recently displayed flags around the Memorial Garden in Sikeston in honor of Memorial Day and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. In addition, thanks to the MoDOT employees who served in the armed forces.



Unfortunately, one in six Missourians do not know where their next meal will be coming from. Do your part to help drive out hunger! The SE District will partner with Southeast Missouri Food Bank in June. Donation barrels like the one pictured above are available in the SE District through June 19. For more information, contact Doris Dumey at 573-472-5340 or doris.dumey@modot.mo.gov.

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